

# The Northfield Press

"The Only Newspaper in the World Devoted to the Interests of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts"

Vol. I, No. 9

Northfield, Massachusetts, Friday, December 28, 1956

Five Cents Per Copy

## Public Schools Are Economically Run

Figures received from the Department of Education of the commonwealth show that per pupil expenditure (in average membership) in Northfield was \$32.19 below the state average for similar towns in the 1955-56 school year.

Northfield spent \$230.98 per pupil (in average membership) during that time while the state average was \$263.17.

## Republican Committee Picks Caucus Date

The Republican town committee set a caucus date of Jan. 16 at their meeting last night, said their secretary. The caucus will be held at Town Hall at 8 p.m. Jan. 16.

Temporary chairman Robert P. Barnes was elected permanent chairman of the group, with 13 members present of a total of 25.

A caucus committee of three was elected and instructed to interview those seeking public office.

Next meeting of the committee will be at 8 p.m. Jan. 9, when the caucus committee is expected to make recommendations of candidates for public office.



Heavy snows and cold weather encouraged many children and adults to enjoy skating and tobogganing on the pond and toboggan slide of The Northfield and Chateau.

## At Town Hall

The selectmen, at their Monday meeting, issued permits to used car dealers and junk dealers and discussed articles to be placed on the town warrant.

(Ed. Note: We regret that when discussing wage increases for highway department employees last week, we misstated the hourly wage levels. These will be \$1.30 for laborers and \$1.45 for truck drivers effective Jan. 1.)

Next selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 2.

## Jan. School Committee Meetings Announced

A Regional school committee subcommittee on equipment for the school will meet Jan. 3 and Northfield school committee will meet Jan. 17, said Supt. of Schools Frank Truner.

Northfield public schools will reopen Jan. 2 after vacation.

### END OF YEAR

Bills to the town for the year must be submitted to the selectmen by Monday, Dec. 31, at 11:30 a.m. The selectmen request that all bills be presented as soon as possible.

## Auto Registry Will Be Open Saturday In Greenfield Town Hall

The registry of motor vehicles' office in Greenfield town hall annex will be open Saturday morning for issuance of 1957 registration plates only, that office has announced.

No other business, such as license renewals, will be conducted Saturday morning in an effort to complete the registrations before Jan. 1. The office will be open as usual on Monday, from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Saturday hours will be from 8:45 a.m. until noon. All other registry offices in the state will also be open Saturday morning.

Nearly 17,000 registrations have been processed by the local office and the flow of car owners into the office is increasing.

## Elman, Honored Violinist, To Brilliant Program Here

### Committee Seeks Regional Principal

The subcommittee of the Regional school committee which was set up to obtain a principal for the new regional school met last night.

The subcommittee outlined a letter to be sent to various schools whose graduates might be interested in the position, said Superintendent Frank Turner.

The subcommittee hopes to escreen the letters and interview candidates during the month of January, said Mr. Turner.

Mischa Elman, one of the great names in music history, will be presented by the Northfield schools in the third of the current concert series at the Northfield Auditorium Saturday, Jan. 5, 1957, at 8:30 p.m. This recital is part of a tour which represents his 49th season before the American public. This same artist, who made his American debut in 1908 playing the first performance of the Tchaikovsky concerto as a fabulous child prodigy of 17, stands today as an artist of enduring greatness.

This season America's leading symphony orchestras, led by the New York Philharmonic society, will feature Elman in many of the violin works he popularized.

The program to be presented Saturday night will include:

Tartini's Sonata in G Minor, four movements; Beethoven's Sonata in C minor, Opus 30, No. 2, four movements; Bruch's Concerto in D Minor, No. 2, three movements; a sonata by Debussy; M a r i o Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Chant Hebraique, and Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens.

This year, as for decades past, thousands of American students, beginning music studies, will use the famous Elman Album of violin pieces.

Trim and zestful and still exploring new horizons, Elman recently returned from a brilliant tour of Europe and South Africa where he scored tremendous successes. In London he gave a recital in Albert Hall where he made a boyhood debut in 1905. And this summer he will tour Australia for nearly two months before resuming his busy concert schedule here at home.

Elman has been an American star ever since his debut here. He has probably given more recitals in this country than any living artist and his recording have sold more than two million copies, an all-time high for a classical instrumentalist.

Elman is credited not only with the first performance here of the Tchaikovsky concerto but he caused to be written or introduced the violin concertos of Goldmark, Glazounoff, Bruch, Ernst and Martinu.

## Solomon Caswell of Farms Was Old Time Log Driver

by John A. Taggart

Among those who followed the hazardous occupation of log driving on the Connecticut river in days of yore was Solomon Caswell of Northfield Farms.

Solomon Caswell was born in Canada—exact place unknown—and located in this vicinity when a comparatively young man. Among his activities were log driving on the Canadian rivers and the Connecticut, flat boating between "French King Rock" and Hartford, Conn., landlord of the old tavern at the mouth of Millers river, and lastly farming. For many years he owned and occupied a farm at Northfield Farms, where he died in 1898 at the age of 89.

"French King Rock" has been a well-known landmark—or perhaps we should say watermark—in the Connecticut river for many years. Before the dam at Turners Falls was raised some years ago, this rock stood well above the surface of the river and was a conspicuous object. It is situated some two miles above Turners Falls, and at the beginning of what was once swirling rapids which extended from that point to the mouth of the Deerfield river. Raising the dam caused the waters to back up-river to a point somewhat above the "Rock," so that now only a small portion of it is to be seen.

Many tales of the prowess of Solomon Caswell both on and off

the river were told by his former river-mates. He was of commanding stature with the proportions of an athlete. He was possessed of a genial disposition and an inexhaustible fund of stories concerning his early life and his experiences while a "river hog," as he was wont to name his former calling.

For some years preceding his death, age and that sure legacy of the log driver, rheumatism, had incapacitated him for hard labor and he was frequently to be seen on the streets of Millers Falls proceeding slowly by the aid of two long, straight canes. On those occasions he was ever ready to indulge in reminiscences. Many an hour did the writer listen to his quaint, humorous descriptions of his former activities and through them all there shone forth a character devoid of all pretense, a spirit which knew only contempt for danger and a bull dog tenacity of purpose which had enabled him to hold his own among a race of hard working, hard fighting men who notwithstanding their few vices, were possessed of an abundance of those homely virtues which we of this day may well strive to emulate.

Log Driving Days in Canada  
"Before ever I came down here," said he, "I drove on the St. Francis river in Canada. Lord bless ye, but there was lots of white water on the St. Francis."

Continued on Page Five

## Bernardston School Releases List Showing Perfect Attendance

Perfect attendance in December at the Elementary school in Bernardston has been announced as follows:

Kindergarten—Darleyne Blake, Donna Deann, Donna Grover, Linda McCrea, Sharon Pollard, Deborah Underwood, Romona Smith, James Barber, Richard Brown, Gary Churchill, Andrew Haskell, Mark Manning, William McComb, Lawrence Parker, Gerald Poirier, Ronald Streeter, William Townsend, Gary Upham and Edward Snow.

Grade 1—Donald Brown, Alan Bunevick, Hugh Der, Karl Merz, Dana Racine, Gregory Szulborski, Allan Tubbs, Ramond White, Lynda Barber, Susan Callahan, Donna Campbell, Joyce Davis, Norma Drew, Jane Newhall and Esther Sullivan.

Grade 2—Joan Chamberlin, Mary Jane Drew, Barbara LaPlante, Prudence McComb, Deborah Snow, Susan White, Douglas Benjamin, Peter Dyer, James Sedgley, David Senior, Paul Skia-thitis, Elmore Streeter, George Townsend, Lawrence Wood and Richard Flagg.

Grade 3—Patricia Barrett, Gail Bishop, Sally Davis, Carol Deane, Marsha Denison, Jill Foster, San-

dra Harris, Lorraine Harwood, Janet Page, Janice Raymond, Marie Streeter, Ingrid Wiemers, Dennis Campbell, Leslie Crosier, Scott Dunn, Raymond Kocian, Gordon McCrea, Frederick Parker, George Streeter, Gregory Upham, Walter White and Christopher Owen.

Grade 4—Kenneth Flagg, Henry Franklin, Wesley Hutchinson, Kenneth Kemp, Cola Nelson, Robert Raymond, Donald Slocum, Philip Sullivan, Loyd Szulborski, Robert Thurber, Robert White, Steven Dunn, Patricia Barber, Judith Coates, Betty Deane, Sharon Der, Betty Field, Susan Fowler, Linda Harwood, Christine Holmes, Donna Newhall, Priscilla Senior, Maria Townsend, Linda Tubbs and Cheryl Whitney.

Grade 5—Gladys Bardwell, Judith Davis, Edwin Dyer, Marilyn Hale, Lillian Herrick, Claude Kenney, Nancy Lenols, Donna Magoon, Gene Park, Stephen Petrain and Joel Underwood.

Grade 6—Robert Bardwell, John Fallon, James Fowler, Earl Freyenhagen, Duane Page, Raelene Bardwell, Gloria Barrett, Janice Marcotte, Marjorie Patch, Judith Townsend and Gail Whitney.



# The Northfield Press

"The only newspaper in the world devoted to the interests of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts"

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DAVID M. STRYKER, Publisher W. Q. ASCARI, Asst. Publisher  
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES, Inc.  
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## Year-End Report

There is nothing in the world of publishing to compare with the country-town weekly newspaper.

Former residents of small towns—and even subscribers living within gunshot of the newspaper shop—seldom realize the quantity of routine labor and the quality of plain old dog-bone stubbornness it takes to publish such a paper each week. (Some might even call this "nerve.")

It's a good thing that country editors have enough of these qualities not to quit. Otherwise there'd be fewer weekly papers than there are now—and the ranks have been thinning alarmingly in the past ten years.

Trouble is, the economics of the country printshop were never meant for the eight-hour day and the five-day week. There is no way to get the paper on the streets without every toiling madly all day every day.

Readers not long familiar with the weekly are sometimes surprised at what they see there. Editors of the papers, however, are usually quick to confess that they are surprised, too. Not that the week's edition came out with such a paucity of news or advertising, but that it came out at all.

Because there is no sensational or dramatic news development every week, the editor must fill the columns with little items—knowing this is what makes the product really worthwhile anyway.

If town hall burns down, everybody in the county knows all about it long before the next publication day for the town paper.

But few readers are in a position to know intimately the workings of town government, or activities at town schools, or the small triumphs of his many acquaintances.

Radio, television, magazines, trucked-in city papers—none can fill the niche occupied in the lives of its readers by the small town weekly.

## THE GREATEST GIFT

I thank You, God,  
On this Your day of days,  
For many things—for  
Home and food and love and peace.  
For laughter and success;  
But most of all, Oh Lord,  
I thank You for the greatest gift  
Of all—the gift of Life itself.

I thank You, God, for eyes that see  
And ears that hear; for speech  
And touch and smell . . .

I'm grateful, Lord that  
I have seen the beauty  
Of a star-filled night  
And the color of a crowd;  
That I have heard  
The jingle of a sleigh,  
And felt the comfort of a ruddy stove  
Upon a winter's day.

And God, to never know  
The spicy smell of  
Evergreen, or hear the sound  
Of choirs in the night;  
To never have the strength to run  
Or wit to laugh—why, then  
What would I do?

I thank You, God,  
For all these gifts  
And many more—  
I thank You, God, for Life.

—J.W.D.

## Through a Kitchen Window

Le Jour d l'An—New Year's Day. For the French this is the traditional time to exchange gifts as we Americans do on Christmas. It is the season when everybody calls on friends and relatives. Handed down from the Druids there is an old French custom of hanging a large clump of mistletoe above the doorway so that people may exchange holiday kisses when they walk under it.

As a Christmas decoration today mistletoe ranks with holly as something quite special and almost indispensable, to be used with evergreens as a part of the festive season, lasting till after the entrance of the New Year.

Some say the word mistletoe comes from the missel thrush that holds the sweet tasting sticky berries against the branch of a tree with its toes to eat them—hence mistletoe. Possibly another and more plausible explanation for the name is that it comes from "mistlan" meaning different twig, growing on trees as it does. The generic name of the American mistletoe, *Phoradendron* means tree-thief.

The Old World mistletoe was named *Viscum album* by Linnaeus. *Phoradendron flavescens* is the American mistletoe which is yellow-green with jointed much-branched stems, thick, firm, persistent leaves and white berries. It is quite showy because of the huge masses of dense growth. A parasite belonging to the plant kingdom, it grows on a great variety of broad leaved trees, occasionally on shrubs and conifers, but mostly on elm, oak, walnut, beech, hackberry and mesquite. It occurs in at least 29 states, primarily in the south and southwest. It is the emblem of Oklahoma.

Mistletoe berries are deposited by birds or beaten down by rain unto lower branches of trees. The seed enclosed in sticky pulp fastens itself to the bark of trees sending down a sinker, penetrating the tissues, drawing nourishment and sapping the vitality of the host plant, frequently smothering it.

The pulp of the berry is attractive to birds such as the cardinal, mockingbird, cedar waxwing and robin. Birds wipe their bills against a branch to remove the sticky substance and seeds become pasted to the tree.

It is not surprising that a plant of such peculiar aspect and occurring in such a remarkable position should awaken the attention of various peoples and influence their beliefs.

The oldest known legend comes from the Scandinavians concerning Baldur who was killed by an arrow of mistletoe. Tears of his mother Frigga, the goddess of love and beauty, became the white berries. Druids of old regarded the mistletoe with the utmost veneration particularly when growing on oak, a favorite tree. The Arch-Druid cut the mistletoe with a golden sickle and let it fall in the folds of his robe, never letting it touch the ground. In Sweden houses were decked with mistletoe so the spirits of the forest might seek shelter

during storms of winter.

Mistletoe sprigs appear as a symbol in nearly every religion and civilization. Moslems decorate their homes with mistletoe during certain holy days; a Hindu god is pictured with it in his hand; The Star of David has been shown in a field of wheat sheaves, grape clusters, fish and mistletoe springs. It is used in the making of rosaries and charms and as a motif in art work.

Mistletoe graced Cleopatra's barge in the Nile and hung in Caesar's tent as he conquered Gaul. According to Virgil it was the Golden Bough which Aeneas plucked that enabled him to descend into the underworld and return safely, and it was placed in the tombs of the pharaohs as a symbol of everlasting life. American Indians used it in a medicinal way. Dickens immortalized it in his "Christmas Carol."

Very old paintings show Confucius teaching under the mistletoe. It lends itself admirably to biological instruction because of its physiological peculiarities, manner of life as a parasite and consequences to trees, medicinal uses, and reference to folklore and mythology—all of which form an exceedingly fine background for teaching.

A new enterprise has sprung up in Texas around the mistletoe, once considered a nuisance. Last year over 60 tons were shipped from Texas to every state in the Union, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and Cuba to some 15,000 outlets such as the ten-cent stores, Sears Roebuck and chain stores. It has become a tremendous business and Gov. Allan Shivers is setting aside a mistletoe week.

Though the superstitions surrounding the mistletoe have vanished, the legends and myths still retain their charm and Americans include the mistletoe as an integral part of their Yuletide decorations for the home.

Harman

## BARN ITCH IS PROBLEM

Barn itch—cattle mange, is hitting the pocketbook of many dairymen during these months when cows are stabled. The trouble is caused by tiny mites burrowing into the skin, reports Dr. James Wadsworth, animal pathologist, at the University of Vermont.

Several signs may indicate cows are suffering from this pest. Among these are continued itching or rubbing against stanchions or walls, constant licking, rough, wrinkled or scaly skin, loss of hair or weight and drop in milk flow. Signs of barn itch often first are seen on the back side of the udder, reports Dr. Wadsworth.

Recommended treatment is 25 per cent wettable lindane powder in two applications 10 to 14 days apart. A lime sulphur solution

ales can be used. This should be diluted with 15 parts of hot water. Six applications 7 to 10 days apart are required for complete control.

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## Social and Personal News Notes of the Northfield Area

David Birdsall, who joined his wife and uncle in Florida writes that it is 85 degrees and they enjoy swimming.

Carlton L'Hommedieu spent a week in Connecticut with his sister and has now returned to Mt. Hermon to be near his mother at Vernon Green.

Mrs. Joseph Reeves motored as far as Atlanta, Ga., with the Wynne Keveres, who were on their way to Florida. Mrs. Reeves is visiting her son, Richard, and family. Sunday evening Rev. Joseph W. Reeves will leave for

Richmond, Ky., to spend a few days with his mother who has been ill. He expects to return before Sunday, Jan. 6.

Mr. and Mrs. George Carr had as guests at Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Galbraith of Wallkill, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. William Carr of Weathersfield, Conn.

For the 16th year the Clyde Matterns celebrated Christmas with their neighbors the Walter Hallams.

Lt. and Mrs. David Mroczk came home from Sacramento, Calif., this week.

The Paul Chamberlains had a large family reunion with Portia Chamberlain Huber and family coming from New Jersey; Paul, Jr., from University of Massachusetts; the Roy Hedeens from Providence, R. I., the James Gidneys from Orange and Charlene, who is in nurses' training from Franklin County Hospital.

Miss Gail Livernoise is spending a week in Pepperell.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Smith spent Christmas in Jamaica. Mrs. Smith is the daughter of Mrs. W. R. Moody.

Mrs. Bessie Reed is staying in Peterboro, N. H.

On December 22 in Franklin County Hospital a girl was born

to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fritz of Beers Plain Road, Northfield.

On December 6 a girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. F. Courtlandt Gilmour of Mt. Hermon; granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Solms.

Over 25 homes received special commendation unofficially from the Garden Club for their Christmas decorations. The club appreciates this form of beautifying Northfield.

On Sunday morning in the Trinitarian Congregational church there will be church school at 9:45 and at the worship service Rev. Joseph W. Reeves will discuss "Living 365 Days a Year." There will be no meeting of the Pilgrim Fellowship.

Andrew Sheldon is home from Colby College, Waterville, Me., visiting his family on Warwick avenue.

Mrs. Pearl Allen announces the engagement of her daughter, Marian, to Richard Holbrook of Keene. Miss Allen is assistant clerk of the court in Greenfield and Mr. Holbrook is employed at the Northfield Food Mart.

Reservations are being made for the Unitarian father-son supper Jan. 2.

Mrs. Ethel Conant of San Diego, Calif., writes news of her family. As the first wife of Harry Hopkins, she lived for several years in the Dickerson House with her two younger sons, David, the oldest son, and his wife, Cherry, and their seven children live in Mamaroneck, N. Y. Robert who graduated from Mt. Hermon, lives with his English wife in Paris, France. Stephen, who attended Bement school in Deerfield, was killed his first night of fighting on Namur in the Pacific. Mr. Conant often visited Northfield to attend the mens' conference at the beginning of the century or to visit his mother who rented the home of the Arthur P. Fitts.

As a post script to the 100th birthday celebration of a former resident, Dr. Arthur J. Brown, the following word has been received: the speakers at the dinner of 200 guests who met at the Park Lane Hotel in New York were Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Methodist; Dr. Charles T. Leber, general secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; Father George B. Ford, vice president, the Church Peace Union; Dr. Peter K. Emmons, president, Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and Rabbi Louis L. Mann, a trustee of Church Peace Union.

Among the hundreds of messages received by Dr. Brown were those of President Eisenhower, Governor Harriman and the King of Sweden. Dr. Brown wrote a personal message on the card of thanks he sent to his host of friends.

At the Christmas morning and afternoon services in the Trinitarian Congregational church, Mrs. W. R. Moody's setting of "Come to My Heart Lord Jesus" was used.

Mrs. Blanche Walker Hiller of Providence visited the Walter Hydes over Christmas weekend. She is a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stroop, parents of Mrs. James Whyte, came from Howell, Michigan, to celebrate with their grandchildren on the Hermon campus.

G. L. Jayne, who lives by the Bennett Meadow bridge, is now an employee of Mt. Hermon school. His former job was with Rockwell.

The Carroll Rickerts, Jr., came from Middlebury, Vt., to visit his parents.

Among the many college stu-

dents home for the holidays are Linda Rubendall and Janet and Norman Dean from Duke University.

The Advent Christian church of South Vernon will hold a watch night service Dec. 31 beginning at 8 p.m. with music, refreshments and prayer groups.

Miss Frances A. Moody, a senior at Fitchburg State Teachers College, has received an appointment to teach in a secondary school in her home city of Springfield. She graduated there from Classical High School in 1953. She is the daughter of the late George Moody, and niece of A. Gordon Moody, manager of the Northfield Hotel. Her present home address is 52 Massachusetts Avenue, Springfield.

More than 200 attended the supper and White Gift Service at the Trinitarian Congregational Church on Friday evening. A telegram of Christmas greetings and congratulations was sent to Mrs. Alice Mosse in New York. She is the new head of the Sunday School, but went to New York to be with her daughter, Mary, who had a son on December 20th. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frothingham are living near Union Theological Seminary where he is doing grad-

uate work.

Public schools closed Friday to open again Jan. 2.

Clifford Camp has rejoined the Kiwanis Club and Harold Wyman who has recently moved to Birnam Road joined. President Barber announces that next week's meeting will be a Round Table at Paul Jordan's from 5-6:30 p.m.

For the first time in two years all the members of the Gordon Parker family were together for Christmas. The two girls are home from college and the father has returned from British Guiana.

The Lily-Dan Restaurant on Main Street has closed and will not reopen until "on or about" Continued on Page Two

4 THE NORTHFIELD PRESS Friday, December 28, 1956



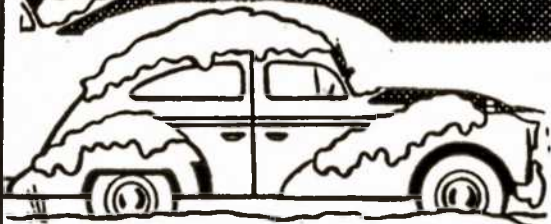
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1957

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**\$3.59**

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Hand Size  
Regularly \$1.00

**89c**

Face Cloth  
Regularly 39¢

**35c**

Fill Your Linen Closet Now With

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Lady Pepperell

## PERCALES

Size	Reg.	NOW
72x108	\$3.09	\$2.49
81x108	\$3.39	59¢
42x38½	79¢	59¢

Slightly Irregular

Lady Pepperell

## MUSLIN

Size	Reg.	NOW
72x108	\$2.89	\$2.49
81x108	\$3.09	\$2.79
42x38½	75¢	65¢

Flat or Fitted

Wamsutta Supercalc  
Plain or Hemstitched

Size	Reg.	NOW
72x108	\$5.45	\$4.45
81x108	\$6.35	\$5.35
90x108	\$6.95	\$5.95
42x38½	\$1.50	\$1.20
45x38½	\$1.55	\$1.25

Wamsutta - Hemstitched

Size	Reg.	NOW
72x108	\$5.85	\$4.85
81x108	\$6.75	\$5.75
90x108	\$7.35	\$6.35
42x38½	\$1.65	\$1.35
45x38½	\$1.70	\$1.40

NORTH STAR

## BLANKETS

Regularly \$19.98

**\$14.98**

All wool blanket by North Star with nylon binding. Colors of blue, rose, green, yellow, butter-scotch and white. Size 80 x 90.

Permanent Finish

## ORGUNDY RUFFLE

## CURTAINS

Clearight finish curtains that will look lovelier longer! Treated to resist shrinkage, insects and mildew. No starching needed! 3½" ruffle and 68" wide.

45 inch	<b>\$1.99</b>
Regularly \$2.59	
54 inch	<b>\$2.39</b>
Regularly \$2.98	
63 inch	<b>\$2.59</b>
Regularly \$3.50	
72 inch	<b>\$2.99</b>
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81 inch	<b>\$3.99</b>
Regularly \$4.50	



# WILSON'S

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Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson and two children of Manasquan, N. J., will remain until after New Years with the Delmont Hicks. Mrs. Jane Roberts is spending a week with the Russell Roberts in Winchester, Mass.

## Solomon Caswell of Farms Was Old Time Log Driver

Continued from Page One

There'd be weeks at a time when I wouldn't have a dry rag on me. Tough? Lord! We had to be. Anything that wasn't born tough and raised tough, never lived to grow up. Everybody had so many children they couldn't furnish beds for all of 'em. I never slept in a bed till after I was 21 years old. Used to roost on a rail like a turkey. That's the reason I'm so holler-footed. Ever notice my feet? I s'pose I was the humliest baby in the whole parish. I was so

durned humbly that my mother was ashamed to take me to a quiltin' party one time; borried a baby from a neighbor and left me to home.

"There was another tavern at Montague City, but it was in between the other two and didn't come handy for us to stop at much. Comin' up-river we allus tried to make Abercrombie's 'cause that was a good place to tie up and then, too, we most allus had a load for Abercrombie. "I ran the tavern at the mouth of Millers river a little while," said Mr. Caswell, "but there wasn't excitement enough in it for me.

"I worked on the first dam at Turners Falls. So fur's I know I'm the only man that ever went under that dam and came out alive. I forgot how I came to fall in, but I did, and I thought now if I can keep from bangin my head against the crib work, perhaps I can make it. Swim? Lord! I could swim like a fish in them days and I made it somehow. I knew they'd be watchin for me, so when I came into the white water below the dam I squirted a mouthful of water up into the air to let em know I was alive. 'There he goes. By Godfrey he's made it,' yelled one of the watchers. 'He's spoutin' water like a whale.' I heered him and spouted agin for good luck. I kept clear of the rocks in the white water and soon come to easy water where I clum a rock and waited for them to come with a boat and git me. They laughed at me and said it was no use to try and drown a man that was born to be hung.

"Oh, them was great times. My mates are most all gone now. I wonder what they would say if they could come back and see it all now. Railroads and dams all over the lot and not a shad comin' up the river any more.

"There's villages now where there used to be swamps. I've poled a boat many times right through where the city of Northampton now is. The canal went through about where the Catholic church now stands."

Well, the world moves onward. The protest against running logs in Connecticut river was heard and heeded in the halls of legislation and the fiat went forth, "No more log drives allowed." Thus was closed a colorful chapter in the history of the "Old Man River" of the Connecticut valley.

No more may we walk dry shod on solidly packed logs for a mile above "French King" and secure a store of spruce gum. No more does the red shirted, spike shod "river hog" balance gracemully with peavy in hand, upon the treacherous, floating log, or gather at the "wanigan" in the evening hour, wet, tired, with an appetite which would shame an ostrich, there to do justice to those delectable baked - in - the - ground beans and their accompaniment of brown bread, hot coffee and doughnuts.

In place of the songs of the log drivers is now heard the "put, put, put" of the motor boat and we must buy our spruce gum at the drug store. Adieu, dog driver. You had your day and played well your part. But the last act is ended and we must now write, Finis.

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## Tax Trend in State Shows Northfield Near "Average"

The enormous increase of nearly \$5 in average local tax rates for 1956 has no precedent in recent Massachusetts history. In 1955 the average of local rates stood at \$52.84. This year it has reached \$57.79, said the Mass. Federation of Taxpayers. In Northfield the 1955 tax rate was \$60 and in 1956, \$75—an increase of \$15.

However, the "equalized" rate, which shows what the tax rates for 1956 would have been if property had been assessed at its full market value as reckoned by the recent Special Commission on Equalization and Apportionment, shows that the average for other towns the size of Northfield was \$20.63 and Northfield's "equalized" rate was \$21.83. This gives a much clearer picture of the town's status among towns of its own size.

## Social Notes

Continued from Page Four

March 1." The Hawks go to Florida for the winter months. The Logs Restaurant is also closed for the winter.

The Cleavers of the Goodale Memorial Church in Bernardston will spend their last Sunday this weekend in that church. As of the new year, Mr. Cleavers is retiring, planning to spend winters in Florida and summers in a home on Northfield's Ridge.

Daniel McEwan, brother of George McEwan, died on December 12.

Miss Frances Callaghan of Boston spent Christmas with Mrs. John Callagan.

Mr. and Mrs. Luman Barber and Miss Pearl Barber, who is teaching in Springfield, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Waide of Longmeadow on Christmas.

Mrs. Robert Barry of Highland Avenue has gone to spend the holidays with her son's family, the Horace Barrys, of New Canaan, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Cregar, their son, Edward and their daughter and son-in-law, the William Walkers, went to New York to celebrate with Mrs. Cregar's mother.

Miss Ellen Briesmaster came from Ann Arbor to spend the week with her family at Valley Vista Inn.

The Fred Chapins' entertaining began Sunday and they expected eighteen relatives and friends... mostly grandchildren.

THE  
NORTHFIELD PRESS 5  
Friday, December 28, 1956

## Classified Ads

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Miss Sophie Servaes went to spend Christmas with her father. Miss Lucille Bolton of Boston is visiting her parents, the Fred Boltons.

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